

## **Historic, Archive Document**

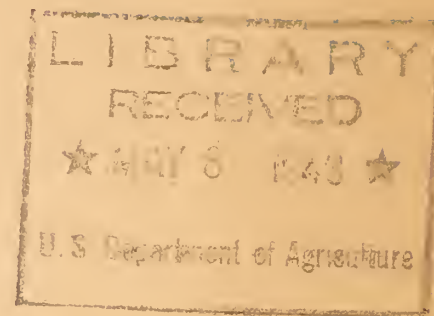
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U.S. FOOD DISTRIBUTION ADMINISTRATION



"A SHIP SAILS"

Broadcast over WGY  
January 18, 1943 - 12:35 P.M.

Don Lerch



MUSIC: SWELL - HOLD 15 SECONDS - FADE UNDER - SOUND AND HOLD

SOUND: SHIP'S WHISTLE.

VOICE I: There she goes - and with her go our work and our hopes. A safe voyage!

MAY 8 1943  
NARRATOR: Another Victory ship sails. Out of an American port - under heavy convoy - plows the grey ship, Ceres. She's a sister to hundreds of other ships who carry the harvest of field and factory -- through the gauntlet of torpedoes and bombs to our fighting men and Allies. They supply our fighting men from Ireland to Africa - from the Solomons to India - with tons of food from American farms. The Ceres must get through!

MUSIC: SWELL - HOLD 10 SECONDS - FADE OUT.

SOUND: SHIP'S WHISTLE - WAVES BREAKING AGAINST A SHIP.

NARRATOR: She's well on her way now - the vessel Ceres. On both sides - staggered like trees along a country lane are columns of other merchant ships flanked by grim gray destroyers streaking here and there like water bugs - hunting for the enemy lurking beneath the waves.

SOUND: \ FADE OUT

On the decks gun crews endlessly watch the skies for Nazi vultures with twisted crosses on their wings. It's a dull, monotonous, treacherous job, but the convoys must go endlessly on. It would not stop, even if the Ceres, carrying 10 million dollars' worth of precious food, were sunk in its midst. On her deck and in her holds are the things that men who fight must have, and things their families fighting on the home front must have - nourishing foods.



VOICE I: And welded on the Ceres' deck are fighter planes, waiting only skilled pilots to clear the skies over advancing Allied ground troops. These planes are the deadliest in the world. They came out of factories throughout America - factories that belch forth the smoke and noise of civilian battle over land that 12 months ago knew no sound but the call of swamp birds.

NARRATOR: Yes, you've built these planes - every part from the fragile control cables to the snub-nosed cannon. On this ship are tanks and trucks and clothing and food. To some of us it sounds strange to have food called a weapon and to have it guarded with the same care as tanks and planes. But in Stalingrad.....

MUSIC: SWELL - HOLD 15 SECONDS - FADE UNDER HOLD

(Russian)

VOICE II: Marie!

VOICE III: Joseph - why so excited?

VOICE II: News, Marie - good news!

VOICE III: Well get your breath - and tell me.

VOICE II: It's wonderful -- A big shipment of food.

VOICE III: Food!

VOICE II: Food from America.

VOICE III: Oh, Joseph - how we need it. It takes so much food to keep working and fighting so hard.

VOICE II: Lard, Marie - tubs of it! We can get some tomorrow.



VOICE III: Now we will have something for our bread-- we'll spread it on thick - just this once. We'll keep working, but we'll celebrate too - Lard from America - all the way around the world - (BOARD FADE) - all the way to us.

MUSIC: SWELL - 5 SECONDS - OUT.

VOICE I: They were so hungry for fats - energy food - that when the first shipments of American lard arrived there were celebrations.

NARRATOR: American lard - and meat and milk and eggs and vitamins - are regularly reaching our Russian allies. More is on the way constantly.

VOICE I: Two out of every five acres of Russian farm land has fallen to the Nazis. Two-out-of-every-five-acres-gone!

NARRATOR: But the Russians keep fighting - driving the Germans back. The Nazis must freeze for a second winter on the frigid steppes of Russia. The Russians have destroyed their crops and killed their cattle rather than let them fall into the hands of the enemy.

VOICE I: From American farms - to Russian mouths - Food for Freedom - tons and tons of it.

SOUND: SHIP'S WHISTLE - (roar of waves and wind - FADE - HOLD)

MUSIC: (English music) SNEAK IN AT "EACH WAVE"

NARRATOR: The Ceres holds her place - third in line. Frigid blasts - spilled from the ice cap whip the waves into rolling mountains - Each wave must be crossed - each wave brings the ship closer - closer - She sails under sealed orders. She may be bound for Liverpool.



MUSIC: SWELL 10 SECONDS - HOLD UNDER

(English)

VOICE IV: Here's your eggs, Mrs. Avercrombie - one dozen - in this little box.

VOICE V: My, it's light - you'd never think it held a dozen eggs, would you?

VOICE IV: They calls 'em dehydrated - Mam. I just say dried eggs -- the egg powder looks like fine cornmeal - tastes good, too.

VOICE V: This must be how America sends food to her own boys here in England. My - they're the heartiest bunch.

VOICE VI: I'll say - and no wonder - each man eats over a ton of food a year.

VOICE V: That's a pile of food -- and the more dried food we get from America - the more fresh food we can give to the soldiers -- it makes for variety.

VOICE VI: Yep -- the United States is sure seeing that its soldiers get plenty to eat -- and food from United States helps us.

VOICE V: My ... isn't this a pretty seal on the top of this egg package.

VOICE IV: Sure is. Mr. Walt Disney - he draws Mickey Mouse, you know - and he also drew this emblem for food sent from America.

MUSIC: FADE OUT.

VOICE V: It's red, white and blue - says (reads) U.S.A. - with a big eagle and a plane flying overhead to protect a merchant ship

SOUND: SHIP'S WHISTLE - (two blasts)

NARRATOR Lights suddenly flash from ship to ship. Trained eyes scan the sea - searching for the bug-like antenna of a Nazi sub. A moving white thread streaks toward the rear of the column. Another. One headed for the Cer



SOUND: EXPLOSION

MUSIC: DRAMATIC - BRING IN UNDER "THE REAR SHIP"

NARRATOR: The rear ship is hit - (hurriedly) missed the other ship. The Ceres swerves - and - the torpedo slithers past. A destroyer races to the stricken ship - ready to take on survivors. Other destroyers - hurl depth charges all round the spot where the sub was sighted.

MUSIC: OUT.

SOUND: (Dull explosions)

NARRATOR: But convoys can't wait. On the Ceres goes. Her hardened crew is used to the dangers of sub-infested seas.

VOICE I: Yes - planes and cheese - guns and vitamins - tanks and meat - we are sending our fighting men and Allies guns and butter - It takes the year's harvest from 6000 American farms to fill a Liberty ship with food. Hundreds of ships have already left our ports. Ships like the Ceres are now running the gauntlet of enemy fire - and many more ships must get through to bring us Victory.

NARRATOR: In noisy grinding plants - the machines of war are born. On farms-- those acres of strength - milk pails clang in the barns, hay swishes down the chute, hogs grunt and squeal as they struggle for feed. (PAUSE) Outside - the land waits for Spring. And millions of people - all over the world - are depending on the man who operates each farm. They're depending on him to make every foot of every acre produce more than ever before. They're depending on each farmer's ability to get more milk per cow - more eggs per hen - more pigs per litter - more soybeans per acre - more



NARRATOR: potatoes per hill. The need for food is tremendous -- Our lands -  
(cont.) our poultry - and our animals cannot produce too much. Our farmers  
must produce the most essential food needs first. We're proud of our  
boys in service. They grew upon pork chops and eggs and milk and  
tomato juice. And wherever they are now, we're going to see to it  
that plenty of those same, good, home-grown foods keep sailing their  
way. (VOICE THRU FILTER) Here are some of the goals farmers are  
planning to meet in 1943.

FILTER MIKE: (Rapid)

4% more corn

8% more eggs

10% more potatoes

18% more beans

16% more red meat

28% more chickens

NARRATOR: All together one-fourth of all the food produced next year will be  
needed by our soldiers and Allies - one-fourth of America's vast  
food supply will go to war.

VOICE I; But during the last two years, over a million workers have left the  
farm - and more may go. There's less nitrogen fertilizer - less  
machinery - plows - tractors - cultivators - harrows - milking machines

NARRATOR: Farmers are short on many things.

VOICE I; But how are you going to make up for the shortages - you can't plow  
with a crooked stick these days.

NARRATOR: How are farmers going to make up for the shortages? Well, I'll  
tell you how - through American initiative and sweat - that's how.  
By planning this year's farm production so that essential war crops  
come first - (BOARD FADE) By planning their work.....



VOICE VIII: I'm milking three times a day during wintertime -- get more milk this way.

VOICE IX: My farm's signed up for war production - talked it over with my neighbor yesterday - he's on the local war board.

VOICE VIII: I'm repairing my machinery now - so I won't be held back this summer.

(Woman's)

VOICE IX: I'm feeding my hens better - to get more eggs.

VOICE VIII: I'm buying improved seed - that should help me get more corn per acre. (FADE)

NARRATOR: Those are the kind of things farmers are doing to produce more food. And the Department of Agriculture is helping them to the full extent of its resources. At the county U.S. Department of Agriculture War Board office - local clearing house for information and assistance. Most farmers begin by saying (FADE)

VOICE IX: What I want to know is - how much help can I count on this summer?

VOICE VIII: What I want to know is - how can I improve my pasture so it will carry more cows?

VOICE IX: What I want to know is - how can I keep that back field from washing so badly?

NARRATOR: Farmers want to know a lot of things -- And all the services of the new Food Production Administration are working with them to answer their problems and to help them produce more food! And when the food is produced, there's the problem of marketing and wise use of it. This is the big job of the new Food Distribution Administration, which has already bought 7 billion pounds of food -



NARRATOR: for shipment overseas. It also has the difficult job of securing food supplies for our armed services, of seeing to it that orderly market channels are kept open for supplying our civilians at home, of helping farmers and consumers alike. The Department of Agriculture can help do all of these things - but many of the problems will remain - and their solution will depend a lot on the ingenuity of farmers and consumers themselves.

(Woman)

VOICE X: But what difference does it make what I say and think about the food I buy - I can still complain, can't I?

NARRATOR: Sure you can- it's your privilege - but while you're complaining -

SOUND: SHIP'S WHISTLE - SEVERAL BLASTS

MUSIC: SNEAK IN AND HOLD UNDER.

NARRATOR: A food ship docks - it's our ship - the Ceres. There's no shouting - no crowds - ship arrivals aren't announced these days. But you can see in the faces of the men who are ready to unload her that they're thrilled. They are eager to get their hands on the weapons - guns - planes - tanks - food. Over thousands of miles of water - guarded by the guns of warships - has come this evidence of American might. These weapons must keep coming. From our ports have steamed ships loaded with 7 billion pounds of food. But how many more ships like the Ceres will leave American ports with their bellies full of food? That depends on all of us. It depends on the farmer. It depends on the housewife. It depends on the united efforts of 132 million who must realize that food is a weapon.

MUSIC: SWELL - HOLD FOR TIMING - CUT.

